

Minutes of Trustees Meeting held on Monday July 15th, 2002, at Duireaskin, Aberfeldy at 7.15 p.m.

Present: Paul Jarvis (chairman), Ruth Atkinson, Beryl Coope, Marjorie Finlayson, Julie Gardiner, Bill Hoare, Robin Hull, Hamish Nicholson, Andrew Pointer, Margaret Jarvis (minutes secretary).

1. *Apologies:* Innes Smith, Ian Riddell
2. *Minutes of Trustees meeting of 11th June:* Accepted and signed
3. *Matters arising:* A membership application form, including a gift aid declaration, is now available. This will be posted on the web site. **Action MJ, AP**

There is to be a Tayside Biodiversity Partnership meeting at Battleby on 30th August at which PJ will give a short presentation on Dùn Coilich. **Action PJ**

Colin Liddell is not aware of any other local groups negotiating a purchase of 'bare' land at present.

We still have no insurance proposal in writing. PJ will chase the company. **Action PJ**

BC now has an Incident/Accident Book in which any incidents or accidents must be recorded. This will be publicised in the next Newsletter. **Action JG**

The need to carry out risk assessments for all activities taking place on the property was emphasised by BC. We need a folder with advice about how to deal with fire etc. This would be made available to contractors, volunteers etc. AP had just produced similar documentation, of about 10 pages, for his company, Transcotland, which he suggested could be used as a template. IS now has Health and Safety information. MJ will ask him to send it to AP. **Action MJ, IS, AP**

BH wondered if we need to have any notices about Health and Safety displayed on the property. PJ will enquire about this to the John Muir Trust. **Action PJ**

MJ had represented HPCLT at the Royal Scottish Forestry Group meeting on Schiehallion. Members of the group had all been very supportive. Dr Jean Balfour had emphasised that we should ensure that contractors planting trees accept the responsibility for survival of sufficient numbers at the end of five years.

JG updated the situation on the Woodland Grant Scheme. Mike Strachan had originally recommended delaying transfer of ownership but now thought differently and a further meeting with him is necessary. We need to take up the Scheme but then have an option of whether to pursue it or not. JG will arrange a meeting. **Action JG**

JG emphasised that it takes time to grow trees from seed and we must put in an order fairly soon as this is a big project. For example, Alba Trees currently has 60,000 Rannoch pines and 30,000 Meggernie pine but do not raise more seedlings than they think they will sell. After discussion with the Forestry Commission, a written paper will be prepared for the next meeting. **Action JG, RA, PJ**

PJ made the point that the previous WGS was reasonably flexible about the size of planted and unplanted areas. AP was keen to have an area much larger than 35 ha left for natural regeneration.

He thought that we should be much more open-minded than other organisations. We had the chance to take a different approach. RH asked if it is possible to predict the likely extent of natural regeneration. JG said that it is. Further discussion was deferred until the next meeting.

PJ has written again to the Director of Education.

4. *Newsletter* : JG was congratulated on the quality of the first Newsletter. This will be produced quarterly. Contributions should be sent to JG who will plan the layout. It was agreed that printing should be done commercially as this is very time-consuming. MF pointed out one small correction (the correct title is Major Ramsay). BC said that Malcolm Appleby's donation of one of his brooches, for a raffle to be entered by all those who had joined HPCLT in the first year, should be publicised in the next issue. Distribution of the newsletter was discussed. This issue had been mailed to all members. MF suggested that it could be used to attract new members and so could go into Tourist Information Centres, etc. AP proposed that it should go to those on the original list of supporters. **Action JG, MJ**

5. *Car parking*: HN had circulated a comprehensive document following a meeting by HN, Russell and Beryl Coope and Charlie Ramsay with Mr Bruce Mac Naughton, Planning Officer, P and KCC. BH congratulated them on the progress made on this.

The upshot is that the entrance cannot be where the gate now is but must be a short distance to the north. It is an advantage that the land slopes away from the entrance. We should plan for a permanent car park. This can be temporary to begin with but should include the possibility for expansion. The height of the wall will need to be decreased to give adequate sight lines. Drainage should be sorted at the outset. SNH has produced an excellent book "Car Parking in the Countryside"; a copy is available. CR had made suggestions about contacts and is very keen to help. HN emphasised that we should keep him informed. MF wondered if we need to provide facilities for the disabled at the outset and suggested that the Army might build a bridge as an exercise. After some discussion it was agreed that we should cater for ten to twelve cars (including two minibuses). PJ pointed out that we now need a plan in order to go ahead and get estimates. RA suggested asking Willy Grieve to look at the site. PJ will contact William Jackson about drawing up plans. BH will contact a retired architect who might be available to do it and BC has a daughter-in-law who could also do so. **Action PJ, BH**. PJ and IR will get together and make an application for funding to go ahead. PJ will contact the Land Fund to see if they will support this. **Action PJ, IR**.

6. *Birdathon*: This had so far made £1240, half of which will go to HPCLT. There will be a party for participants at a later date, at which the prizes will be awarded.

7. *Publicity*: RH has been writing about 500 words each month in "*Comment*". He asked for feedback on this. RA suggested organising a ceilidh, which RH would then publicise. This was deferred until a later date.

8. *History*: RH reported that this was becoming fascinating. He had just interviewed a 93-year-old and had got much information from neighbouring estates. More is needed! We need to consider how best to publish this historical material in due course. MF suggested contacting Morag Pepper and RA suggested the School of Scottish Studies, who might help with tape-recording etc.

9. *Report of the Surveying Group*: RH (chair), JG, RA, RC and Wendy Mattingley had met several times to work out the methods of collecting and recording data. AP had advised about the computing aspects. They were congratulated on the progress made. BH suggested that the layout of the recording sheets should now be fixed. HN emphasised that we should stick to metric units. BC pointed out the need for a place to record sensitive information, about rarities etc. It was agreed to do this by putting the word "alarm" in the "comments" column.

It was agreed that printing and other costs should be recouped by applying to BC. She suggested Lynne Ford in Dünkeld as a possible printer. RA was authorised to purchase 20 permanent markers for the vegetation quadrats. **Action RA**

The next dates for vegetation and other surveying are Monday 22nd July at 6.30 p.m., Saturday 3rd August at 10 a.m. RA would like addresses of anyone who might be interested in surveying.

JG suggested having waterproof boxes to hold survey sheets at the site. RH agreed but thought this should happen at a later stage.

An expert on moths was coming from Kindrogan.

10. *Education* : BC had arrange a meeting on Thursday, 29th August, with interested teachers in the Highland Perthshire area. So far she had replies from four, two of whom were coming. The best venue was thought to be the Town Hall, at 7.30p.m. **Action BC**. Other meetings would be needed for people concerned with Further Education - at Kindrogan and Perth College, for example. It was suggested that the education advisers from SNH, WWF have leaflets that might be relevant. The barytes mine have leaflets designed by pupils at Breadalbane Academy. (A competition for pupils might be a good idea) PJ will contact the JMT Award scheme representative for this area. **Action PJ**.

BC suggested that tertiary education bodies should be contacted. PJ mentioned a recent visit as part of a field course for students from Dundee University.

11. *Financial*: BC has a booklet from Inland Revenue on Scottish Charities. Audited accounts are necessary for a turnover of more than £100,000 and are due one month after the year end on 30th November. PJ will write to Tim Ambrose, who works for Price Waterhouse and had offered to help. **Action PJ**. It was agreed that subscriptions should be included in Gift Aid applications.

It was agreed that costs incurred could be recouped by giving receipts to BC, who would then repay them by cheque

12. *Any Other Business*: BH was organising a fungal foray for the Aberfeldy Members Centre of SWT on 11th September. He suggested that this take the form of surveying on Dùn Coillich. RH thought that the Goulandie burn would be a good area.

RA would like volunteers to keep a record of time spent surveying as this is useful for fund applications. She would also like to record activities of other groups such as the recent Dundee University students. She suggested that we should start a tree nursery on site. Seed can be collected from now on. We would need a machine to turn over the ground. Further discussion on this was deferred.

10. *Date of next meeting*: Tuesday, 13th August, Duireaskin, 7.15 p.m.